

Regular meeting of the Carthage/West Carthage Water Pollution Control Facility Management Board
Held in the Board Room of the West Carthage Municipal Building
July 22, 2013

Attendance:

Carthage Members – Chairman Michael F. Astafan and Trustees Kathleen Latremore and Rebecca Vary. Trustee Linda Smith-Spencer was excused.

West Carthage Members – Mayor Scott Burto and Trustees Scott Sullivan and Rob Peluso.

Others Attending – Wayne McIlroy, Village of Carthage President; Bart Crary, DANC Chief Plant Operator; Carrie Tuttle, DANC Director of Engineering; Bob Sturts and Michael Soukup, Slack Chemical Company, Inc.; and four Participation in Government Students.

Call to Order:

Chairman Astafan called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by Trustee Latremore and seconded by Trustee Vary to approve the minutes of June 19, 2013 regular meeting as presented by the Clerk. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Forum:

None

Monthly Reports:

WPCF Status Reports: Ms. Tuttle stated she had a conference call with GHD regarding the planning proposal and they are considering using the existing facilities instead of building a new facility as outlined in the original proposal. Mr. Crary highlighted items throughout the June 2013 Status Report. Motion by Trustee Latremore and seconded by Trustee Sullivan to approve the WPCF Status Reports as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Mayor Burto and seconded by Trustee Latremore authorizing John Lehman, John Lawrence, Michael Brown, and Michael Marcum to attend the Northern New York Water Works Conference Training in Wanakena, NY for Gas Detection Systems on August 23, 2013 at a cost of \$40.00 per person, to include mileage reimbursement. Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report: The Financial Reports were reviewed and there were no questions. Motion by Trustee Peluso and seconded by Trustee Vary to approve the Financial Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Monthly Expenditures:

Trustee Sullivan and Trustee Smith-Spencer reviewed the monthly bills prior to the meeting and Trustee Sullivan stated the Clerk answered his questions earlier.

Motion by Trustee Latremore and seconded by Trustee Sullivan to approve the monthly expenditures in the amount of \$97,565.17. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

The industrial user permit was sent to Climax Manufacturing on July 1, 2013 and we have not received a signed agreement from Climax. Chairman Astafan requested the Clerk to send a follow up letter and Mr. Crary offered to call Mr. Goutremout, Climax Technical Manager.

At the June 19, 2013 meeting Mayor Burto requested to change the meeting time to 6:00 p.m. to allow for West Carthage members to attend. After considerable discussion Chairman Astafan requested the Clerk to place this issue on the next regular meeting agenda to allow Mayor Burto to confirm with Trustee Peluso if 6:00 p.m. or 6:30 p.m. would be a more convenient time. Chairman Astafan stated the meetings can be long and the accommodation is necessary to have both Villages input.

Motion by Trustee Sullivan and seconded by Trustee Peluso to change the regular meeting time to 6:00 p.m. until further notice. Motion carried unanimously.

At the June 19, 2013 meeting, Attorney Gebo provided an overview of the grievance received from the WPCF employees regarding removal of water coolers and drinking water. In the past, water and the water coolers were provided by an outside vendor at a considerable cost to the facility. The board made the decision to discontinue purchasing water and renting the water coolers from an outside vendor as a cost saving measure and cited potable water which is produced via the Joint Water System is available to employees for consumption. Mr. Smith stated the purchased water has been in place at the Wastewater facility for over 20 years and cited in the contract, Article 14., Maintenance of Standards states “.....general working conditions, shall be maintained at not less than the highest standards....” And feels removing water coolers that provide cooled, filtered water with tap water is clearly a reduction in standards and the Union is prepared to go to the next step of arbitration if the purchased water and coolers are not returned. Chairman Astafan stated the board will discuss the issue in Executive Session and will send him their written response.

Update 07/22/13: Chairman Astafan stated Attorney Gebo sent a response to the Union denying the grievance but offered to purchase two water coolers and jugs as a compromise to be filled with tap water. The Union accepted the compromise and the two water coolers and jugs were purchased therefore the grievance is settled.

New Business:

The Clerk explained the electronic purchase order approval process and stated Mr. Crary logs into the accounting system to prepare the purchase order and the Clerk logs in to the system separately to approve it.

Motion by Trustee Latremore and seconded by Trustee Sullivan authorizing the Clerk to electronically approve purchase orders retroactive to June 1, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.

The Clerk explained that the Village of Carthage recently switched utility service providers from US Gas and Electric to National Grid and realized a savings of \$0.128 for gas and \$0.026 for electric and requested permission to change service providers for the Wastewater Treatment Facility. Mayor Burto stated that the Village of West Carthage participates in a group with surrounding Municipalities and they realize a discounted rate and will forward the information to the Clerk tomorrow.

Motion by Mayor Burto and seconded by Trustee Sullivan to permit the Clerk to change Electric and Gas service providers to realize a cost savings for the Wastewater Treatment Facility. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Tuttle prepared an invitation for bids for chemical supplies and submitted it to the board for their consideration. Mayor Burto distributed a letter received from Slack Chemical Company which outlined additional services they provided to the Treatment Facility free of charge. After considerable discussion, the majority of the board was in favor of continuing their service with Slack Chemical Company due to their service and proximity within the Villages. Ms. Tuttle expressed that Slack Chemical Company does not provide all of the chemicals necessary for the Wastewater Treatment Facility. Chairman Astafan

requested the Clerk to provide vendor activity for last year for all of the chemicals purchased; Mr. Crary will provide a listing of chemicals used and work with Mr. Soukup who will provide a quote by the end of the week for chemicals they can provide.

Chairman Astafan stated that the quarterly payment has yet to be received for Climax's portion of the operation and maintenance and there are only enough funds within the joint account to pay the current bills and payroll for next month. Mayor Burto stated that he has contacted Climax several times and they state they will pay the overdue bill. Mayor Burto further stated that the sale of Climax fell through and they filed for bankruptcy for one of their facilities. Chairman Astafan stated that Attorney Gebo expressed per the Villages' inner-municipal agreement, the Village of West Carthage is responsible for making the payment. Mayor Burto stated he agrees and that was a point he was trying to make last month when he wanted greater representation on the board and stated the Village of West Carthage was the greater user. Mayor Burto will contact the Village of West Carthage attorney in the morning and request that he take action to collect the payment from Climax.

Trustee Latremore expressed that she is concerned with the debris which is building up on the State Dam of which Climax has an agreement to keep clear. She further stated that if we were to experience heavy rains, it may cause flooding within the Villages.

Motion by Trustee Latremore and seconded by Mayor Burto for the Clerk to send a letter to Climax requesting they remove the debris from the State Dam. Motion carried unanimously.

Liaison Reports:

Audit Committee:

None.

Waste Treatment Plant:

None.

Old Business:

Chairman Astafan stated that the Teamsters Union requested a formal vote regarding the tentative proposal for WPCF employees submitted at the meeting on June 19, 2013. Chairman Astafan highlighted the proposal:

Five Year Contract

Clothing Allowance instead of purchasing uniforms

Change insurance plans from the current Select Plan to the HRA Plan

Employees will contribute to their health insurance for five years starting at \$1,000 and increase the contribution amount \$100 each year

Raise percentages for five years respectively 2%, 2%, 2%, 2.5%, and 2.5%

Many language changes to clean up the contract

Motion by Mayor Burto and seconded by Trustee Latremore to have a roll call vote to accept the tentative agreement.

Roll call:

Trustee Vary Yes

Trustee Latremore Yes

Trustee Sullivan No

Trustee Peluso No

Mayor Burto No

Chairman Astafan Yes

Chairman Astafan will send the results of the vote to Attorney Gebo.

Chairman Astafan stated he received a letter from DANC which indicates the Villages overpaid them for the Chief Plant Operator contract resulting in a credit of \$7,031.00 due to WPCF which will be subtracted from this current year's contract.

Executive Session:

None.

Next Regular Meeting Date:

Trustee Latremore stated she is unable to attend the next meeting and asked if any members were in favor of changing the date due to conflicts they may have. The majority of the board stated they were in favor of not changing the date of the meeting.

August 20, 2013 at the Village of Carthage Municipal Building at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment:

Motion by Trustee Sullivan and seconded by Trustee Peluso to adjourn at 7:05 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristy L. O'Shaughnessy
WPCF Clerk